THE
MARYLAND GAZETTE.
[No. 1891.]

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1782.

For the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

To the PEOPLE of ENGLAND.

WHATEVER may ostensibly induce your miniſtry, to continue the war with America, their real deſign, is your ſlavery. Thus while your ears are aſſaulted at home, with the rattle of foreign conqueſt; while that enthuſiaſm which hath hitherto diſtinguiſhed the admiration of your conſtitution—which is the Argus of its ſecurity, while this is diverted, by fixing your eyes upon this weſtern world, your rulers are forming chains for your liberties, by adding to the influence of that branch of your government, the executive, whoſe aſcendancy above the others, will ſink you into ruin.

Expect not to detect their villainy, by the diſcoveries of a king's evidence: the laws would recognize no ſuch character, in this caſe, and the ſword of juſtice be found inadequate to his puniſhment. If the prerogative of your ſovereign be not infringed, he never thinks himſelf injured by a violation of the conſtitution.

Their lordſhips at the helm of affairs, may go on to flatter your expectations with hope and falſe appearances; it is humane in them to indulge you in the enjoyment of this remnant of Pandora's box, after having emptyed on your devoted heads, all the miſeries, and diſeaſes through the veins of the nation, every poiſon which precedes that laſt ingredient of human viciſſitudes. Even this comfort, which Omnipotence hath bury'd under ſuch a heap of ills, your miniſtry mean to turn againſt you, by aſſimilating its effects with thoſe miſeries, which it was deſigned to ſooth and alleviate; hope, you may expect, will continue to feed your imaginations, with thoſe baſeleſs viſions of conqueſt, with which they ſo long have trifled with your underſtandings. Such preſſing, gaudy falſities, promote their treaſonable deſigns. Such is the hypocriſy which is aſſumed by the views of falſe friendſhip; but you muſt not expect ſuch flattery from the lips of an enemy.

The voice of truth, to a people ſo little accuſtomed to her language, and ſo long eſtranged from the calls of wiſdom, muſt convey the moſt diſcouraging, unwelcome advice and information. Her ſincerities will be called the formal impertinence of officiouſneſs, and be deemed the falſe prophecies of ſuſpicion, and timidity. If, in a moment of caprice, ſhe ſhould attract the ſerious attention of any, ſhe will be indebted for this favour, more to a faſhionable rage for novelty, and the ſingularity of her appearance, than to a paſſion for profiting by the wiſdom of her counſels.

When you firſt reſolved on a war with America, there was a befitation in your behaviour, which roſe not from your friendſhip, but from the enormality of the enterpriſe. Your firſt operations againſt her, were rather partial experiments on the irritability of her nerves, than a vigorous attack upon her whole frame. You acted like men who are afraid of ſtifling their conſciences with an oppreſſion of guilt, until by the practice of evil—its ſenſibility is deſtroy'd, and its eye rendered blind to the frightful deformity of vice. This caution aroſe from the artifice of your miniſtry. The ſlavery of the whole Britiſh empire was their original object; but they were too well verſed in your hiſtory, your revolutions, and your ſcaffolds, to declare their deſign openly. The lower parts of this Scilla, it was expedient for them to conceal, and the robe of maſkery hath fully anſwered the decency of their cares.

All oppoſitions by arms to crowned heads, if unſucceſsful in their iſſue, whether ſtigmatiſed with the opprobrium of rebellion, or embelliſhed with the glory of legal reſiſtance, have always in the end, added ſome precious right of human nature, to the ſtamples of tyranny. Your miniſtry were reſolved to have ſome pretence, by which the liberties of your country were to be attacked, a diſguiſe was neceſſary, and the cloak of rebellion was moſt equal to their purpoſe. America, in becoming your rival, had excited your jealouſy—and ſuſpicions. In vengeance of living, ſplendour of fortune, and every circumſtance of luxury, ſhe was almoſt equal to the mother country; nor were the ſciences unknown to her, or the arts of government peculiar to Britain; theſe while they were the ornaments of your empire, ſhould have been its ſecurity, and the moſt binding bond of union; but pride, which is eager to meaſure the efforts of the emulous, will prefer annihilation to equality.

The rights of Engliſhmen were to be ſtruck at, and America was the deſigned door of that invaſion. Our liberties were conſequently attacked; but you, blinded by the arts of miniſtry, and your own paſſions, ſaw not the diſtinctneſs of a precedent thunder which in ſome future hour of miſery, you will be treated with ſimilar injuſtice. By intentionally forcing America to reſiſtance, your adminiſtration artfully changed that into rebellion, in your eye, which, had it been your own caſe, would perhaps have altered the line of your proteſtant ſucceſſion. It was extremely politic in them, thus to convert by deſign, the Americans into foes, that in the perſons of your enemies, you might forget the defenders of liberty and your own conſtitution. You knew not the remoter extremities of your own body; and when you raſhly conſented to the war, you opened a mortal vein in the diſguiſed member, whoſe communication with the heart, will make itſelf moſt conſpicuouſly known, by the ſatality of its effects.

By thus familiariſing your feelings to inhumanity in America, and accuſtoming your underſtandings to the ſpecious ſophiſtry of deſpotiſm, the deformity of arbitrary power will drop its odium, and your minds be gradually prepared, for the ultimate application of their deſigns in England.

America ſaw the application of your principles, and nobly reſiſted; but with a good ſenſe, and moderation, which, while ſhe ſhow'd a final indulgence to the errors, and dotage of a parent, gave the beſt ſymptoms of her firmneſs. The ſuperficial force of your military parade, and character, had little other effect upon her, than that of enlivening her exertions, with the proſpects of laurels and renown. In the vigour of that diſpoſition which teaches nations how to prize liberty, ſhe remained unſeduced from the charms of virtue, by the effeminating doctrines of a court. Secluded in her local ſituation from the voice, and preſence of tyranny, ſhe could reaſon with an unbiaſſed judgment, upon a ſyſtem of politics, whoſe evil conſequences ſhe traced with facility, and confuted with boldneſs. She was the only part of your empire who knew with clearneſs and certainty, the inalienable rights and property of human nature. Theſe ſhe knew, and from experience and reaſon loved them—and theſe, while the eye of your parliament hath eagerly waited their diſſolution, ſhe, with a prodigality of blood hath defended.

The cauſe of freedom, is the cauſe of human nature in general; but in this ſtruggle were involved the rights of Engliſhmen, in particular. You did not foreſee the general concluſions of ſlavery which would be forced from particular violations of liberty; but this fatal ſophiſtry, experience ſhould have taught you, to be the logic of tyrants. You did not ſuſpect that an iſſue which the politicians of St. James's would term happy, would bear an equivocal meaning, and be true only, when apply'd relatively to the completion of their ſchemes. But this ſo much wiſhed for victory over the freedom of America, will finally prove a painted ſepulchre to your own liberty; and to your nation, a ſplendid triumph over her own ruins.

Your hiſtory is an exhibition of kings meditating ſlavery againſt a people, and a people fighting againſt their kings! Though the latter have often failed in their plans of uſurpation, and the former been ſometimes fortunate in repreſſing the arm of deſpotiſm, for that ſalvation, you are more indebted to the undiſſembling impolicy of their meaſures, than to the infallibility of your conſtitution, or the acuteneſs of your penetration.

Thoſe liberties, which have been ever viewed with a jealous, envious eye, by the miniſters of the court, you can no longer, at this late hour of depravity, hope to defend or preſerve. An univerſal ſpirit of corruption and venality, by enfeebling the nerves of patriotiſm, hath added a boldneſs and ſecurity to the machinations of miniſtry. Deſtitute of that vigilance, which is eſſential to the citizens of a government, compoſed of three diſtinct powers—each one of which is to be watched with a jealous attention, you will at length fall victims to that branch, which by acquiring an influence diſproportioned to that of the other two, will derange the whole ſyſtem of your theoretical conſtitution.

You muſt not expect that your ſuſpicions are to be alarmed by thoſe appearances of evil deſigns, which in former times ſet you on your guard: nor muſt you look for a violation of your forms, and rights, from theſe open, unkward, and boiſterous politics, which formerly awaked the moſt drowſy ſentinel of freedom, and threw the nation into arms. The maxims drawn from your experience, will be found inapplicable to modern refinement. Political ſubtilty accommodates itſelf to times, to the views and intrigues of intereſt; and your miniſtry will no longer ſtretch at words and forms, the ſhadow of liberty, while they can without danger, ſeize upon the ſubſtance.

In former, more uncultivated ages, when the paſſions of your kings, were the rulers of their conduct; when an open fierceneſs, was more the effect of an incapacity to reſtrain the violence of the paſſions, than an honeſty of heart; when that procraſtination, which is neceſſary to true politics, was outrun by an impetuoſity, which made force the great inſtrument of enterpriſe; and when the deſigns of tyranny were not ſecured from detection, by the impenetrable ſhield of diſſimulation, from the conviction of your ſenſes, you eaſily diſcovered, and ſucceſsfully evaded the impending ruin of ſlavery, and miſery.

The preſent enemies to your liberties advance their attacks more by ſap, than aſſault. Thoſe ſchemes, which an undiſſembling enmity had formerly blaſted, they will accompliſh, by remote conſequences, and a ſilently gaining perſeverance. Thus the encroachments made by your preſent miniſtry, will be known more from the malignancy of their effects, than the notoriety of their adoption.

A ſeven years war, void of every permanent ſucceſs, and eminent in diſgrace, muſt have convinced you, by this time, of its impolicy. A war, in its proſecution ſo repugnant to humanity, full of the deepeſt wounds to your national pride, replete with chaſtiſement, and chequered with nought but the variety of miſfortune, ſuch a war, muſt have convinced any miniſtry of their duty, but ſuch whoſe views extended beyond the mere emoluments of conqueſt.

Whenever a motive is apparently wanting for the conduct of a man, it is even charitable in a ſpectator, to attribute his actions to ſome ſecret deſign, which though it may draw cenſure upon the honeſty of his heart, preſerves his underſtanding from the imputation of ideotiſm. Some deſign muſt be given from probability, rather than ſuppoſe your miniſtry to act from no deſign. Could you view things through their proper medium you would detect that deſign. In penetrating miniſterial ſcenery, you would recognize the old exile, Domeſtic ſlavery artfully diſguiſed in the habiliments of the American war; you would find the hands of Engliſhmen to have been conſtant in the formation of chains, which you ſo generouſly would have beſtowed upon the Americans.

The policy of your adminiſtration, aiming at an increaſe of royal prerogative, which already hath ſwelled to an alarming influence, will continue the American war as long as your deluded houſe of commons will furniſh the means. Upon this principle, throwing out of the ſcales, the honeſty, or wickedneſs of their real, ultimate deſigns, they are good politicians; as the means which they have made uſe of, aided by your unaccountable blindneſs, ſeem fully adequate to the end propoſed. Attributing to them this motive, and they muſt have this, or none, we muſt allow that credit to their ingenuity, which otherwiſe could not be claimed by their ſtupidity and madneſs.

The form of your government hath a conſiderable analogy, with the œconomy of the human body. That limb which is moſt exerciſed, while it improves in dexterity, will enlarge its veins, increaſe its ſtrength, and robbing the other parts by an appropriation of the juices, will become ſuperior both in ſize and health. Your executive, in this diſproportioned limb; war is the ſeaſon of its predominance; and while the deliberative evince no farther ſymptom of life, than a miſtimed loquacity, this, is invigorated by the richeſt ſupplies of power and active exerciſe.

In limited monarchies, whoſe form, as yours, admits the reſtraints of three powers, each one of which is deſigned reciprocally to curb the encroachments of the other, a time of foreign war, is to the two deliberative branches, a period of imminent danger. It is then, that a wakeful ſuſpicion becomes the firſt virtue of a patriot; for if ever the ſcales of your government, loſe that equilibrio eſſential to the juſt independency of each, it will be in time of a foreign tedious war, when the executive acquires a greater ſhare of conſequence by the command and exertion, than the other parts. The moſt prudent is the caſe. Your executive is the only member of your government, which ſtrikes the eyes of the people with any degree of veneration; for it is that quarter from whence their immediate wel-

proceed, and their expectations are flattered. Your house of commons are in time of war to be considered as the mere puppet of a show, whose time, course, and operations, are directed by your ministers of state; in every other respect, and point of character, it is unimportant, unemployed, and insignificant.

Public emolument, foreign conquest, and national dignity, present to the eye, objects the most animating that can seize upon the passions of a nation: these absorb all your contemplations; and were your domestic rights secure or invulnerable, you would be pardonable in neglecting them, for objects which are so engaging, and worthy ambition, but which, when put in competition with these, are at most but the tinsel and folly of greatness. But this is not the case; the dragon which was placed the guardian of the tree of Freedom, defends, and protects his charge, but devours the fruit. The infirmities inherent in all human institutions, denies to yours an exemption from corruption and decay. While your attention is hurry'd off into distant schemes, while your fervour is augmented by the zeal of the partizans of administration, these domestic liberties, so important, so communicative of every blessing, are lessen'd, and crumbling into ruin by neglect. You unknowingly are suicides, and perpetrators of the blackest crimes against your posterity.

The evidence of history proves, that the slavery of nations have been imposed or increased, during the tumults and distractions of war. "*Silent leges inter arma.*" That arm of the executive, so formidable to the equality of the other two branches, has then, a kind of legal superiority; and procuring those advantages in which the passions of the nation are warmly interested, hath a magnificence in its promises and distributions, that dazzle the judgment, while they employ, and strike the senses of the multitude. It is then that tyrants have profited by the folly of their subjects; and cloaked their usurpations under the broad mantle of political necessity and reasons of state.

This branch of your government, you should ever watch, and dread; for this, is inspired by the passions, and moved by the sinews of sanctioned ambition. Its encroachments are less observed, because made by a disguised, temporising, progressive usurpation. By exhibiting its exertions in behalf of the nation openly, and under the title of *authority*; it affects an honesty of intention. Thus the alarm which a monopoly of power should inspire, is artfully prevented; and the infringements of administration by offering some temporary, immediate bauble of advantage, acquire the sacred appellation of public good, and insensibly steal into the garb, and seat of right, and prerogative. Favours by long usage become confirmed rights.

The invasion of enemies, and the inequality of the military part of the feudal system, to the purposes of wars of any duration, gave Charles the seventh an excuse for the introduction of standing armies. This was meant at first, but as a temporary remedy for feudal defects; he however never relinquished an acquisition so important to the views of princes. This event, though it marks the progress of civility, and better government, yet proves, among many other instances, that a temporary necessity has always given birth to, and apologised for, the most permanent institutions.

The object which takes your attention at present is the American war, but in pursuit of this vapour of delusion, you will be drawn to the brink of a precipice, from whence you will be hurry'd into irrevocable slavery.

It is not natural, for men whose passions are engaged with keenness, in the pursuit of an object, to suspect the means by which it is to be obtained; they will not foresee any pernicious effects, from the adoption of a conduct whose immediate advantages, render the remoter consequences more faint and scarcely perceptible. But you should ever be open to the informations of truth, even though given by a professed enemy.

You are doubly deceived. You are misled with regard to the practicability of conquering America; and you mistake the ultimate object of your ministry. If your officers find not more advantage, in the profits of their unsuccessful commands, than pleasure, in doing the duties of good men, men of honour, and citizens, they, by long experience in defeat, are fully enabled to convince you of the impracticability of your fancy-led schemes of conquest; and if you are not utterly lost in venality, to the calls of Freedom, a conviction of that truth, will readily point to a detection of ministerial treachery. But this, you do not suspect; and if you preserve your characteristic uniformity of dulness, you will disdain to believe. Indeed, it would be chimerical to suppose, that a people so haughty, who sleep so securely in the infallibility of their government, should in the moment of distribution, suspect of evil design, that part of it, which brings them the splendid acquisitions of riches and national glory. You should remember that the wisest of politicians, observes—that "slavery is ever preceded by [illegible]."

Thus at the conclusion of this long war, many forms, the necessary guardians of freedom, will be lost, and the suspensions of rights, at first designed as temporary, will be found, by the [illegible] occasion, will be lost, lastly in fixed ones, and at length [illegible] branch, which occasioned the innovation, as its necessary appendages. It is the policy of your administration to continue, and the interest of the nation to terminate, this war. The first, by continuing the war abroad, add to their stupendous influence, but the latter, must look to [illegible], that the secret which wounds America, robs the domestic happiness of Britain. Should you have felt the virtue to be moved—and the tears of contrition flow, when you behold the destruction of your country, epitomised in the fate, of the captive lord Cornwallis!

A REPUBLICAN.

December 8, 1781.

To the PRINTERS of the MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THE welfare, the safety of the state is concerned in the conduct, honour, and probity, of those entrusted to hold the first offices of government; and no matter, in which the public is interested, ought to be concealed. In a debate, in the house of delegates, on the supply bill, a delegate from Kent county* observed, "that the state might be assimilated to a private family of prudence and œconomy, which always enquire into its expences, and the conduct of its servants. That he had observed great abuses, and waste in the management of the public monies, but that the house of delegates had been *lashful*, and neglected to enquire into the conduct of public officers. He intimated great waste in the collection of the last year's assessment, and said he believed it might amount to 100,000 pounds. He observed that, last session, he had informed the house of the misconduct of, and breach of trust by, one in high office, but the house were *bashful*, and from some cause or other, suffered his information to pass unnoticed. He now asserted, that the person alluded to had been guilty of such shameful and infamous conduct, and of such great crimes, that he deserved the most exemplary punishment, and, if true, ought to be immediately banished the state." The warmth, the zeal with which this was delivered, astonished the house, and the bye-standers. The gentleman further observed, "that he was ashamed and mortified to discover, that instead of an enquiry and punishment, the person had lately been appointed to the most honourable and important trust in the state." As soon as the gentleman had finished his speech, a member rose, and desired, that he would mention the person to whom he alluded. Upon which several members called to order, and observed, that the matter was foreign to the debate. The delegate from Kent then observed, "that he did not mean to interrupt the business before the house; that if he was in order, or required, he would name the person he meant to accuse, but that he did intend to make a *formal* charge against him, during the session. Upon this declaration the matter now remains.

From the established character of the delegate of Kent county, for his patriotism, honour, and regard to veracity, it cannot be questioned, but that he can produce full and indubitable proofs of the truth of his allegations; and I cannot but remark that our representatives will be guilty of a breach of their delegated trust, if they pass over the information; justice to the public, and justice to the individual, demands a public investigation of the charge. No art, no subterfuge, ought to screen the culprit, and if the laws are incompetent to his crimes, the public ought to rise as one man, and expel him the state.

An AUDITOR.

* *General Cadwalader.*

PHILADELPHIA, *Dec.* 20.

A gentleman from Rhode-Island informs, that the brig —— captain Denniston, from Jamaica for London, with 200 hogsheads of sugar, captured by the Delaware, captain Frole, of this port, after beating off the coast for some time, was obliged to bear away, and has got into Rhode-Island; as is also a large ship from Cadiz, for this port, which was blown off.

A gentleman lately from England reports, for the benefit of those concerned on this side the water, that he saw in Mill-prison, a number of American prisoners, among which were in good health the following persons, most of whom sailed from Philadelphia:

Capt. Kemp, Thomas Ball, Simon Alderson, jun. Shubert Armitage, John Ashton, Thomas Elfworth, John Brown, William Downs, Simon Alderson, jun. Mr. Troop, Joseph Singleterry, col. Richardson, of Maryland.

ANNAPOLIS, *January* 3.

"Last Saturday evening THOMAS SPRIGG, Esq. discharged the great debt of nature, at his seat on [illegible] river, in the 67th year of his age. The numerous acquaintance of this amiable gentleman will unite in yielding to his memory the mournful tribute of regret. During the course of a long and prosperous life, he experienced, as a citizen, a husband, a father, and a friend, was, in every respect, entitled to the highest esteem and applause—and his behaviour during the [illegible] painful illness displayed the [illegible] of the [illegible] and philosopher."

Office for confiscated estates, Annapolis, December 29, 1781.

AT Snow-hill, in Worcester county, on Wednesday the 30th of January next, will be sold for specie, or continental bills of credit emitted in this state to the actual value of specie, several valuable slaves, some stock and farming utensils, late the property of Dr. Henry Stevenson. Also an estate for the joint lives of Dr. Stevenson and Mrs. Stevenson, in the following tracts of land; Blackthurst, containing 203 acres; part of Collick, containing 82 acres; Cutler's Contrivance, 28 acres; Edward's Garden-spot, 13 acres; Timber-grove, 99 acres; and an unimproved lot in Snow-hill. One-third of the sum bid to be paid on the first day of September, 1782, the remainder in two equal yearly payments thereafter. Purchasers to give bond on interest, with two good securities.

3 By order, I. BARTER, clk.

THREE POUNDS SPECIE REWARD.

SUPPOSED to be run away, or taken away, from the subscriber, living near Ballair, in Prince-George's county, on the 12th of November, a negro fellow named James, about 24 years old, 5 feet 5 inches high; had on when he went away an old cap, old great coat cut short and much darned, black coat, yellow waistcoat, fulled cloth breeches the fore part brown the hind part lightish, blue yarn stockings and old shoes. Whoever takes up said fellow, or secures him so that I may get him again, shall receive the above reward, and reasonable charges if brought home, paid by

w3 2 MARY CLARKE.

To be sold to the highest bidder, on Tuesday the 29th of January 1782, if fair, if not the next fair day, at the subscriber's plantation near Broad-creek, Prince-George's county, Maryland, for tobacco,

TWENTY-FOUR or five likely country born negroes, consisting of men, women, boys, and girls, among them a carpenter, a cooper, and three valuable house servants. Also a flourishing stock of horses, black cattle, sheep, and hogs, some of the horses blooded. Also nine years of a lease of 600 acres of very fine land, well improved, lying within three miles of the town of Alexandria. Also sundry plantation utensils, consisting of a new ox-cart with three yoke of oxen, ploughs, axes, hoes, &c. Twelve months credit without interest will be given with bond and approved security. The sale to begin at 11 o'clock. ts

2 JOHN ADDISON.

To be sold to the highest bidder, on Tuesday the 29th of January, 1782, at the plantation of col. John Addison, near Broad-creek, Prince-George's county, Maryland, three miles from the town of Alexandria, for tobacco,

THE beautiful thorough bred horse ROEBUCK, he is a fine blood bay, 15 hands an inch and an half high, rising four years old, and was got by Benjamin Dulany, Esquire's, Othello, who was bred by William Fitzhugh, Esq. of Chatham, and got by Old Fearnought upon a thorough bred Morton's Traveller mare; Roe-buck's dam was got by col. Tasker's Othello, who was got by Crab, his grand-dam by Morton's Traveller, his great grand-dam was col. Tasker's famous Selima who was got by the Godolphin Arabian. Twelve months credit without interest will be given with bond and approved security. ts

2 OVERTON CARR.

December 29, 1781.

THIS is to give notice to all whom it may concern, that the property of James Bowen, jun. deceased, in the house of Cunningham, Finlay, and Browne, belongs to the estate of Priscilla Browne, late of Queen-Anne's county, deceased, and that I will support the claim of said estate as soon as I can obtain the proper vouchers.

2 w6 ROBERT BROWNE, executor of Priscilla Browne.

ANNAPOLIS: Printed by FREDERICK and SAMUEL GREEN, at the Post-Office, Church-Street.